Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of initiating a handoff between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, ~~and wherein the serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems,~~ comprising the steps of:
   a) obtaining a first parameter, E_b/N_t, associated with the serving base station;
   b) obtaining a second parameter, E_b/N_t, associated with the target base station;
   c) determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and an offset;
   d) returning to step (a) if the first parameter is not less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset; and
   e) initiating a reverse link handoff between the serving and target base stations if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset.
2. (Original) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the step (b) further comprises obtaining a target base station E_c/I_o value associated with the target base station.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 2, wherein the step (c) of determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and an offset comprises the sub-steps of:
   i) determining whether the target base station E_c/I_o value is greater than a threshold parameter T_Add ~~parameter~~;
   ii) returning to step (a) of Claim 1 if the target base station E_c/I_o value is not greater than the T_Add parameter;

iii) sending a pilot strength measurement message ~~PSMM~~ to the serving base station and adding the target base station to an active set if the target base station E_c/I_o value is greater than the T_Add parameter;

iv) determining whether the serving base station transmitted an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station;

v) returning to step (a) of Claim 1 if the serving base station did not transmit an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station;

vi) proceeding to step (d) of Claim 1 if the serving base station transmitted an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station;

vii) obtaining the first parameter from the serving base station and the second parameter from the target base station; and

viii) determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the ~~offset is zero~~ serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems.

5. (Original) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the offset is based on a Frame Error Rate (FER) parameter.

6. (Original) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the offset is based on a Quality of Service (QoS) parameter.

7. (Original) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the step (e) of initiating a reverse link handoff is autonomously performed by the mobile station.

8. (Original) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the handoff is an intergenerational soft handoff comprising a forward link soft handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.

9. (Original) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 8, wherein the handoff is autonomously performed by the mobile station.

10. (Original) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the handoff is an intergenerational hard handoff comprising a forward link hard handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.

11. (Original) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 10, wherein the handoff is autonomously performed by the mobile station.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for initiating a handoff between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, ~~and wherein the serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems,~~ comprising:

a) mobile station transmission control facilities configured to ~~means for~~ send~~ing~~ a pilot strength measurement message ~~PSMM~~ to the serving base station, and to add ~~and adding~~ the target base station to an active set when a first parameter, E_c/I_o, associated with the target base station is greater than a threshold parameter T_Add ~~threshold parameter~~; and

b) a mobile station handoff control module configured to ~~means for initiating~~ initiate a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff, ~~wherein the hard handoff initiation means is responsive to the serving base station, and wherein the hard handoff initiation means initiates a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff when the serving base station transmits an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station and~~ when a second parameter, E_b/N_t, associated with the serving base station is less than or equal to a sum of a third parameter, E_b/N_t, associated with the target base station and an offset.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the ~~offset is zero~~ serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the offset is a difference between a value of the third parameter, E_b/N_t ~~of~~that is required by the target base station, and a value of the second parameter, E_b/N_t ~~of~~that is required by the serving base station.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the offset is based on a Frame Error Rate (FER) parameter.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the FER parameter comprises a 1% FER.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the offset is based on a Quality of Service (QoS) parameter.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the reverse link intergenerational hard handoff is autonomously ~~performed~~ initiated by the mobile station.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the handoff between the serving and target base stations is an intergenerational soft handoff comprising a forward link soft handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the handoff between the serving and target base stations is an intergenerational hard handoff comprising a forward link hard handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.

21. (Currently amended) A computer program executable on a ~~general-purpose~~ computing device, wherein the program is capable of ~~initiating~~ directing initiation of a reverse link handoff in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, ~~and wherein the serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems,~~ comprising:

a) a first set of instructions for monitoring a first parameter obtained from the serving base station, wherein the first parameter comprises the value of E_b/N_t that is associated with the serving base station;

b) a second set of instructions for monitoring a second parameter obtained from the target base station, wherein the second parameter comprises the value E_b/N_t that is associated with the target base station;

c) a third set of instructions for determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and an offset; and

d) a fourth set of instructions for initiating a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff between the serving and target base stations if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset.

22. (New) An apparatus for initiating a handoff between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, and wherein the serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems, comprising:

a) means for sending a pilot signal measurement message ("PSMM") to the serving base station and adding the target base station to an active set when a first parameter, Ec/Io, associated with the target base station is greater than a threshold parameter T_Add; and

b) means for initiating a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff, wherein the hard handoff initiation means is responsive to the serving base station, and wherein the hard handoff initiation means initiates a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff when the serving base station transmits an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station and when a second parameter, Eb/Nt, associated with the serving base station is less than or equal to a sum of a third parameter, Eb/Nt, associated with the target base station and an offset.

23. (New) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the mobile station handoff control module is further configured to initiate the handoff in (b) in response to the serving base station, when the serving base station transmits an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station.

24. (New) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the mobile station is configured to autonomously perform the intergenerational soft handoff.

25. (New) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the mobile station is configured to autonomously perform the intergenerational soft handoff.

26. (New) A method of initiating a handoff between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, and wherein the serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems, comprising:

a) monitoring a first parameter reflective of a signal received from the serving base station;

b) monitoring a second parameter reflective of a signal received from the target base station;

c) monitoring a different third parameter reflective of a signal received from the target base station;

d) determining whether the third parameter is greater than a predetermined threshold parameter T_Add, and returning to step (a) if not, else sending a pilot strength measurement message (PSMM) to the serving base station and adding the target base station to an active set;

e) determining whether the serving base station transmitted an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station, and returning to step (a) if not, else continuing to step (f);

f) determining whether the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and an offset, and returning to step (a) if not, else initiating a reverse link handoff between the serving and target base stations.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, further comprising basing the offset of step (f) on a Quality of Service (QoS) factor.

28. (New) The method of Claim 26, further comprising basing the offset of step (f) on a Frame Error Rate (FER) factor.

29. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the first parameter is a first E_b/N_t value associated with the serving base station.

30. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the second parameter is a second E_b/N_t value associated with the target base station.

31. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the third parameter is an E_c/I_o value associated with the target base station.